

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

New claims 29-50 have replaced the original claims.

Claim 29 is directed to a method of forming a crushing surface of a rock crusher. The method includes the step of arranging over an inner mounting surface 65 of a container 12, 36, a circumferentially extending band 60. The band 60 has a concave inner surface 164, and a convex outer surface 64. After the band has been arranged on the mounting surface, the band is cut through at least once, to be separated into a plurality of short segments. By cutting through the band, the potential for bending and breakage of the segments during operation of the crusher, due to crushing forces and imperfect dimensional fits is reduced. A major advantage over the prior art is that a plurality of the segments can be installed simultaneously in the form of a single band, thereby eliminating the considerable effort required to separately install and align a large number of individual segments as has heretofore been the practice. In other words, the present invention enables a plurality of segments to be installed in the form of a one-piece band and then separated into the individual segments by cutting the band, in contrast to the prior art practice of installing all of the segments individually which is time consuming and increases chances for the segments to be inaccurately aligned with one another.

New claim 29 recites, inter alia, arranging a band over an inner mounting surface of the container, and thereafter cutting through the band to separate the band into a plurality of circumferentially adjacent segments.

In the Acton patent, which was applied against the original claims, curved liners 5 are applied in a container, but no cutting step is disclosed, i.e., the liners are

not cut into segments after being installed, thereby omitting a key feature and advantage of the invention defined by claim 29.

Therefore, it is submitted that claim 29 and dependent claims 30-39 distinguish patentably over Acton.

New dependent claim 33 recites that the band includes at least one portion of reduced thickness through which the cut is made. In the disclosed preferred embodiments, the portion of reduced thickness is formed by a groove disposed in the outer surface (see the groove 90 in Fig. 5) or in the inner surface (see the groove 162 in Fig. 6). Acton discloses a liner 5 having a serrated inner surface, each serration thus defining a portion of reduced thickness. As noted earlier, however, no cutting is performed through those portions of reduced thickness. Furthermore, new claim 34 recites a groove disposed in an outer surface of the liner. Acton's serrations are clearly intended to affect the crushing action, so there would be no motivation for forming the serrations in the liner's outer surface.

New dependent claim 35 recites that the groove is disposed in the inner surface, but also recites that the inner surface comprises frusto-conical surface portions separated by the groove. In Acton, the liner's inner surface does not include frusto-conical surface portions separated by each serration. Accordingly, it is submitted that dependent claims 33-35 further distinguish patentably over Acton.

New independent claim 41 is directed to a method of forming a crushing surface of a rock crusher by arranging over a concave inner frusto-conical mounting surface (65) of a container a wear-resistant band that includes a concave frusto-conical inner surface 164, a convex frusto-conical outer surface 63 facing the mounting surface, and a groove 90 or 162 formed in one of the inner and outer

surfaces of the band. The groove extends toward, and stops short of, the other of the band's inner and outer surfaces, wherein the one surface includes frusto-conical surface segments separated by the groove.

As noted earlier, Acton does not disclose frusto-conical surfaces. Furthermore, claim 42 recites that on the band there are provided frusto-conical surface segments separated by the groove. Acton has no such surfaces, because Acton's grooves are separated by a point (not a frusto-conical surface) where the sides of adjacent grooves intersect one another. Therefore, it will be appreciated that Acton's patent is directed to a markedly different structure from that presently defined by claim 41.

New independent claim 42 is directed to a wear resistant band adapted to be mounted on an inner mounting surface of a rock crusher. The band is frusto-conical and includes a groove disposed in one of the band's inner and outer surfaces to define a portion of reduced thickness. The surface in which the groove is disposed includes frusto-conical surface segments separated by the groove. Thus, claim 42 distinguishes patentably over Acton, which does not disclose frusto-conical surface segments separated by the grooves of the serrations. Actually, there are no surface segments between Acton's grooves -- only points of the ridges disposed between adjacent grooves.

Moreover, new dependent claim 43 recites that the groove is disposed in the outer surface. As noted earlier, there would be no motivation to form serrations in the outer surface of Acton's band.

New independent claim 50 is also directed to a wear-resistant-band for a rock crusher, and recites that the groove is disposed in the outer surface.

Therefore, it is submitted that claims 40-49 distinguish patentably over Acton.

The specification has been amended to provide antecedent basis for language now used in the claims. It will be appreciated that the amendments merely describe structure that is apparent from the original disclosure.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:**

The attached sheet includes changes to Figs. 5 and 6, and replaces the original sheet, including Figs. 4-6.

Numerals 63' have been inserted into Fig. 5

Numerals 164' have been inserted into Fig. 6.

Arrowheads to numerals 63 and 164 have been inserted in Figs. 5 and 6.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet (Figs. 4-6)